

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1850.

TWO WEEKS SESSION.—The attention of all persons interested is called to the advertisement of L. H. MARSTELLER, under "General Notices." The next Term of New Hanover County Court will be continued for two weeks. See advertisement.

FIRE.—A fire broke out about ten o'clock on Tuesday night, in a framed stable, on the east side of Third Street, between Walnut and Mulberry. The building belonged to Mr. A. A. WANNETT, and was totally destroyed. The exertions of the firemen and citizens prevented any other property from being injured. The loss is not heavy.

COMMERCIAL BANK.—It will be seen by the advertisement in another column, that the Directors of the Commercial Bank have declared a dividend of 4 per cent. upon the capital stock; the six months ending on Saturday last.

We do most sincerely hope that none of our sister counties in this district will fail to send delegates to the Southern Rights Convention, to be held in Wilmington on the 11th of next month. We can see no earthly reason why they should hesitate, but on the contrary, every reason why they should be represented. The Convention has no ends nor aims to which any citizen of North Carolina can object. It does not point to a dissolution of the Union, but, on the contrary, to its preservation, upon the only basis upon which it can be preserved—that of the constitution, the only contingency upon which dissolution could be resorted to, is that in which all Southern men will agree—that of a violation of the condition upon which the Union was framed. Such being the actual state of the case, we would beg leave to urge upon our friends in the various counties the propriety of being represented, and represented, too, by their coolest and most discreet men; for it is only in the spirit of coolness and moderation that this question should be met. We have too much respect for the good sense of our readers to indulge in a strain of nonsensical bravado; the question of union or disunion is too serious a one—to be intimately entwined with all the recollections of the past, the feelings of the present, and the hopes of the future—to be treated in a spirit of demagoguery, or resigned to the control of reckless agitators. The people—the sober reflecting people—alone possess any influence in this matter; and the time has come when they must take it into their own hands. Whatever some few hot-headed individuals may say, and, perhaps, think, we feel convinced that the New Hanover resolutions express the feelings of the people of North Carolina—that people is devoted to the Union, and when they abandon it, it will only be when they are reduced to the alternative of disunion or dishonor—they wish to know no North and no South, but their country—and they wish to use every means in their power to avert a catastrophe only preferable to dishonor or the abandonment of principle—but if the worst does come, if the alternative is, indeed, presented, there will be but one unanimous decision—disunion before dishonor.

At a crisis of this kind, the moderate and thinking portion of the community cannot afford to stand aloof. Their presence is necessary to calm undue excitement, and to give moral weight and influence to movements which would otherwise be only potent for evil, but powerless for good. With their assistance, the Nashville Convention will be a means of effecting much good—without it, it will be a mere fire-brand. Such considerations, we think, should have their weight even with those who, were the question brought before the public for the first time, might be inclined to differ from the advocates of such Convention. It is now certain that the Convention will be held, and the question for the people of North Carolina is not, Convention or no Convention—but will North Carolina be represented, or will she not? Will she, by sending her firmest and best men, add moral power to the Convention, and exert a due influence on its deliberations? Or will she, by standing apart, seem to give sanction to the idea of want of union among the Southern States, at the same time that she abandons the whole subject to those in whom, by her refusal to co-operate, she has exposed her distrust?

We are happy to see that a meeting of the people of Cumberland county was held in Fayetteville on Monday last. We have not received the official proceedings, but learn from the *Observer* that Dr. BENJ. ROBINSON presided; with JOHN MURPHY, Esq., and DR. THOMAS N. CAMERON, as Vice Presidents, and ARCH'D MCLEAN and J. G. SHEPHERD, Secretaries. The resolutions, in mild but firm language, approve of the Southern Convention, and appoint fifty delegates to the District Convention at Wilmington, on the second Monday of March.

The proceedings of a meeting held this week in Columbus county, will be found in our columns, and we learn that a meeting is to be held at Bladen on the 22d. County Courts we believe, will be held in all the remaining counties of the district between now and the second Monday in March, and we would suggest, may, urge upon the people of those counties, to hold meetings and appoint delegates at their respective County Courts. We confidently hope and believe that every county will be represented.

We learn verbally, that a meeting will be held at Clinton, Sampson county, next week.

THE COLUMBUS MEETING.—We have read the proceedings of the meeting held at Whiteville, on Monday last, with considerable care, and are pleased to find that they breathe the proper spirit—a spirit of firmness and moderation—a firmness that will not yield an inch in the hour of trial, but a moderation that will leave no means untried to avert such trial. The resolutions harmonize with the feelings which we have found universally prevalent upon this subject. The people are prepared for firmness, but not violence.

Population of California.

We cannot help thinking that the estimate of the probable population of California has been most egregiously exaggerated. The highest statement of the vote cast at the recent election there for Governor and members of Congress is fifteen thousand, while other statements make it not more than thirteen thousand. Now it should be remembered that the present population of California is composed almost exclusively of adult males, capable of voting, not as in the States, of men, women and children indiscriminately. The proportion of votes to population in the free States, is about one to every six. In California there should be at least one to every four, if not to every three, which will plainly show that the population at the very highest cannot exceed 60,000, if indeed, it equals 50,000. We think the latter number is pretty near the mark, if it does not go beyond it. This should certainly be looked into before California be admitted as a State with two Representatives, when, in fact, she has not the requisite population for admission at all.

ALABAMA.—The members of the Legislature of Alabama assembled in Caucus on the 6th inst., and appointed eight delegates from the State at large, and four for each congressional district, composed of an equal number from both the political parties, to attend the Southern Convention to assemble at Nash-

vill in June next.

FIRE IN BUFFALO.—A fire occurred in Buffalo, N. Y., on the 5th inst., which consumed property to the amount of \$50,000.

SUP.—The Southern mail had not arrived when we went to press, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Clay's Speech.

Mr. CLAY's speech in support of his compromise resolutions is very long—quite as long, if not longer, than Gen. Cass's speech upon the Wilmot Proviso. It fills some eighteen columns of the National Intelligencer. Of course, we could not pretend to publish it, or even any considerable portion of it. In our Congressional summary, we have striven to give, and we believe, have succeeded in giving pretty accurately, the leading points and positions which Mr. CLAY assumed. In expressing any opinion in regard to this effort, we would wish to be guided solely by what we conceive to be its merits, apart from any partisan bias. As a party man, we have ceased to regard Mr. CLAY as the possessor of any real power or influence beyond a personal popularity, which is rather momental and retrospective in its character. All parties praise HENRY CLAY pretty much upon the same principle that people always find so many virtues in the dear departed—he is politically dead, and his appearance upon the stage of public affairs is a sort of mental ghostdom—a posthumous existence, which is perfectly harmless to his opponents and useless to his friends. This ghostly and unsubstantial character is remarkably apparent in his resolutions and speech. Not one of his resolutions asserts a bold and decided position, with the exception of the last:—not one of them pretends to be founded upon principle:—not one of them grants one iota to the South—and, moreover, not one of them settles anything definitely. The first says that California shall be admitted with suitable boundaries. Does the term suitable settle anything in regard to the boundaries? The second is equivalent to the Wilmot Proviso, without daring openly to say so. It says that, whereas, slavery does not exist by law, as Mr. CLAY says, already abolished by Mexico, Congress should not interfere with the subject. Now what is this but a solemn decision by Congress that slavery is to be rejected through their chairman, F. George, Esq., and the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That the people of Columbus county entertain feelings of veneration, affection, and regard towards the Union, and deplore the existence of any subject calculated to impair its permanency and stability.

2d. Resolved, That, whilst we solemnly entertain these feelings towards the Union, yet we will not submit silently to injustice or wrong.

3d. Resolved, That we deplore the existence of a wrong state of feeling in the Northern States on the subject of the Wilmot Proviso, as proposed to be applied to our lately acquired Territory, and protest against the disposition exhibited by them in disregarding and violating that clause in the Constitution which guarantees to us the right of reclaiming our runaway slaves.

4th. Resolved, That we approve the proposition to hold a Southern Convention at Nashville, for the purpose of debating and uniting upon some plan to protect the South from Northern aggression.

5th. Resolved, That we approve of a convention being held at Wilmington, the second Monday of March.

6th. Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting appoint twenty-five delegates to represent this county in said convention at Wilmington.

7th. Resolved, That the Wilmington and Fayetteville papers be requested to copy these proceedings.

Forney George, Esq., then being called upon for a speech, spoke in high tones of eloquence, for the preservation of the Union at all hazards, save principle; and showing conclusively, that as there are different opinions entertained at the South as regards the abolition of slavery in the District, and the Wilmot Proviso, as proposed to be applied to our lately acquired Territory, a Southern Convention was all-important; and that in the Nashville Convention, the Southern States should unite and form a Southern Platform, based upon constitutional grounds, upon which, if the North trespassed, they will bind themselves, to boldly and unitedly resist; and concluded by earnestly urging the unanimous adoption of the resolutions, showing that they were based upon motives of justice and love for the Union, and that our motto should be "in the Union, and for the Union, in the South and for the South."

Col. J. G. McDugald, of Elizabethtown, was then called upon, with remarks from various other portions of the house, that "the meeting wished to hear from Bladen." The Col. said that Bladen should be heard from, "and although she had a weak representative, yet he assured Columbus that Blader was always ready to act in union with her sister counties when they were, as at present, acting upon bold and just principles," and addressed the meeting in general terms upon the expediency of taking the course that the South was now pursuing, and spoke at considerable length upon the veneration he held for the Union; and the insults of the North—in eloquent and patriotic strains, and concluded by saying, "Mr. President and citizens of Columbus, in this matter let us to-day take a bold, united and decisive stand:—tomorrow we may compromise; the next day we will maintain our rights, irrespective of consequences. 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WILMINGTON, N. C. MONDAY, FEB. 11, 1850.

Authorized Agents.

JAMES M. REDMOND, Barber, Edgecombe county, N. C.
JOSIAH JOHNSON, Clinton, Sampson county.
JOSEPH R. KEMP, Bladen county.
DR. SHERWOOD, Strickland's Depot, Duplin county.
B. S. KOUNCE, Richland, Onslow county.
VOLNEY B. PALMER is authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions for the Journal, in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and receipt for payment for the same.

From the Illustrated London News.

Sigus of Decay.

We are told, on high authority, that there is nothing new under the sun—that what has been may be again—that all things revolve in an old appointed circle—that for empires as well as for individuals there is a period of growth and a period of decay—and that neither the mighty nor the humble can escape the operation of the inevitable law which fixes a penalty for every transgression, and which punishes with the same severity the high and the lowly.

A modern writer struck with the power of these old truths, and tracing in the past and present history of Great Britain the operation of causes which must, in the fullness of time, produce its fall, has drawn a vivid picture of a New Zealander, sitting upon a ruined arch of London Bridge, and moralizing upon the fate of the once mighty empire become as much a thing of the past as Rome, Greece, and Assyria. But when we read the eloquent page, we smile at the position of the writer. We cannot believe that “that mighty city who glorified herself and lived deliciously, who said in her heart, ‘I sit as a Queen and shall see no sorrow,’ shall ever fall from her high estate. We think of the wealth, the enterprise, the indomitable courage, the intelligence, the zeal and the piety of her sons; we see her wondrous progress in arts that Greek and Roman never knew; the triumphs of her science, and the blessings of a civilization superior to any enjoyed by the earlier ages of the world, and we fancy that in all these things there are germs of stability and progress which shall grow up and flourish in after-times, bearing the name and fame, the power and the glory, of Great Britain to the remotest generations.

It is well, however, that we should sometimes view the other side of the picture, and ask ourselves more exactly whether our empire is indeed so firmly rooted—so learned to the world by its justice, humility, and beneficence—so supported by its own integrity—so much a model to the world. We have always had the pleasure of reading, to be sure he always gave his author's name and the page of the book; but the library at B—— was not fortunate enough to contain all the works that Phil had among a host of ministerial candidates. Phil had studied chemistry, and it was his special delight to form a cause and watch its chemical effect on his devoted victim.

Not far from Phil's paternal mansion was situated the B—— Academy, or, as the villagers called it, the College. Among the students of which number Phil was one—at the Academy, was a young man from North Carolina, named Morris Kenny, who had imbued with his mother's milk a strong aversion to a black man. To him a “nigger” was an object of special aversion.

Shortly after Morris Kenny's arrival at the College he had the good fortune or misfortune to become intimate with Phil Waters, so much so, that a day did not pass that the two were not together. To the wealth, the enterprise, the indomitable courage, the intelligence, the zeal and the piety of her sons,

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“God bless my soul! who says that?” exclaimed Morris, springing from his seat.

“Raftingsparier,” repeated Phil, “the fifty-fourth page of the second volume, under the head of ‘Strange Phenomena.’”

“Yes, indeed, Morris, my boy, did you never hear of before?” cried Charlie Johns. “Why man, do you know that I have been watching your most interesting physiognomy attentively for the past three weeks to see the great change come over the spirit of thy face, as Byros says, or should have said?”

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Now are the only dangers which menace us, although our empire stretches to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, through we have our hands in Asia, our feet in Africa, our arm in America and the South Pacific Ocean, our own peculiar territory is but a small spot in a remote corner of Europe. We have only held that corner by the enormous sacrifices we have made. It was our ambition to become a ruling power, giving the law to the world, and we became so; but it was at a cost of £200,000,000 that paroxysm our population and like a peripatetic and shifting weight upon the empire of all classes. In addition to this stupendous evil, we share the effete ness of all Europe. There is but one empire within European boundaries that is not worn out and paralyzied by debt and extravagance; that empire is Russia—and she is the enemy of all the rest and desires to rise upon their ruins. Dostoyevsky seems to have traced her path as it has traced ours. The Solovianow races will inevitably be the new lords of Europe. The Anglo-Saxon race must be content to be the lords of the larger and more splendid inheritance of America and Australia. In this case what becomes of the empire of Great Britain? It falls to the ground, and exists only—like other weak and potenates of the world—in the bones and sinews of its sons and successors, transferred to a new soil, and enjoying privileges, blessings, and opportunities, from which their forefathers were excluded.

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We live indeed, in a remarkable period of the world's history—a period in which new empires take the place of old ones with wonderful rapidity, and in which old empires are paying the penalty of transgressions against the laws of morality and social well-being committed by them during many generations. Europe has enjoyed power and has abused it, and the sceptre of the world's dominion is passing from her grasp. Civilization, as of old, is following the course of the sun, and the destinies of humanity we are. We must, sooner or later, yield our place to the more prudent, the less embarrased, and the more vigorous offshoots of our race, and consent to occupy the easy chair of our senility. Nor is there anything to regret in this. What is there in our corner of the globe that it should forever expect to give the law to all others?

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Our friend Phil among the rest, the profane “had finished reading the morning lesson, and had said let us pray,” when the scream penetrated in their ears and next moment the door burst open and in bounded Morris.

“O, it's true! it's true! I'm a nigger! I'm a nigger! Raftingsparier's right! I'm a nigger! O mighty! I smelt a rat!” an inquiry was instituted, our friend Phil was detected and received a severe reprimand.

Morris's natural color was soon restored, and as soon as it was safe for him to venture South, there was one student less at B——. Whatever regret he felt at parting, was overcome by hearing the old professor remark as he left the hall, “There goes Phil Water's nigger!”—Flag of our Union.

An office seeker somewhere of “down East,” intends to apply for the place of “Minister Extraordinary” to unknown people alluded to in Gen. Taylor's Message—“the rest of Mankind.”

which may arise will take warning from the errors of the old; and that, in the decay and fall of empires, humanity itself would emerge from each change in brighter lustre, wiser and juster, more peaceable and more religious, and do as much as any man can do to aid the coming of the prophesied time when the people shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; when nations shall not lift up the sword against nation, nor learn a war any more.”

College Trick of Phil Waters.

BY BET.

The little village of B——, not many miles from Baltimore, has the honor of being the birth-place and the home of Phil Waters, one of the most inventive practical jokers the world has ever produced, not that Phil was a rough-and-tumble sort of a fellow, but he delighted in such low, practical jokes, as the ringing of door-bells—the calling up of the old doctor in a cold winter's night to see a sick female, and after leading him for two or three miles through the snow in the woods, to declare that he must be mistaken. Not such a joker as Phil Waters, but a nice, quiet, unobtrusive, modest young man, that would have passed muster had among a host of ministerial candidates. Phil had studied chemistry, and it was his special delight to form a cause and watch its chemical effect on his devoted victim.

Far not from Phil's paternal mansion was situated the B—— Academy, or, as the villagers called it, the College. Among the students of which number Phil was one—at the Academy, was a young man from North Carolina, named Morris Kenny, who had imbued with his mother's milk a strong aversion to a black man. To him a “nigger” was an object of special aversion.

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Shortly after Morris Kenny's arrival at the College he had the good fortune or misfortune to become intimate with Phil Waters, so much so, that a day did not pass that the two were not together. To the wealth, the enterprise, the indomitable courage, the intelligence, the zeal and the piety of her sons,

we see her wondrous progress in arts that Greek and Roman never knew; the triumphs of her science, and the blessings of a civilization superior to any enjoyed by the earlier ages of the world, and we fancy that in all these things there are germs of stability and progress which shall grow up and flourish in after-times, bearing the name and fame, the power and the glory, of Great Britain to the remotest genera-

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I declare, is, if that negro man did not how to us, I wonder what the impudent fellow means?”

No doubt Prian was astonished to hear that Troy was on fire and none of the boys ready to put it out; Cesair was rather astonished when he saw Bratus advancing to tickle him under the ribs. Macbeth has been seen to express considerable surprise, and justly so to see that “dagger in the air,” as our friend Dobb says, but the essence of their astonishment added together, did not equal the sum total of Morris, when he heard himself call on the ice of fiery impatience.

The skies were produced: the eager Colonel tied them on, and swearing a dreadful oath that he would bring back the preacher's scalp or leave his own, he started upon a pair of skates, which he had carried in his pocket for the last few days, to be ready for a race with his master.

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